

The Officers, Directors and Members of  
US SAILING  
are pleased to present the  
ARTHUR B. HANSON RESCUE MEDAL  
to  
David Knapp  
for the rescue as follows:

US SAILING's Safety-at-Sea Committee has awarded an Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal to David Knapp of Tampa, Fla. and the 18-foot gaff-rigged catboat Miss America for rescuing a sailor in Tampa Bay.

Miss America was competing in the singlehanded race in the Davis Island Yacht Club's Old Shoe Regatta on November 27, 2009, when Knapp noticed that another boat's sail and boom topping lift had become entangled with the steel structure of a range marker that served as a turning mark of the course. Knapp stopped racing and alerted the race committee by VHF marine radio. He stood closely by the other boat and watched the skipper attempting to free his vessel. In the process, the skipper lost his balance and fell overboard. His life jacket slid up around his head as he was struggling to swim. He was forced to hold on to the steel structure.



David Knapp on right

Although the wind was blowing 16 to 18 knots in 2 to 3-foot seas, Knapp sailed up to the other boat's transom, held Miss America alongside with one hand, and with the other lowered the boat's stern ladder. When the other skipper proved to be too exhausted to climb up the ladder, Knapp remained calm and gave the skipper proper instructions. He assisted him up the ladder and into the boat's cockpit. The race committee soon arrived to assist in freeing the boat and return it and her skipper to shore. The skipper was in the water for approximately eight minutes.

Dr. Gino Bottino, MD  
Chairman, Safety at Sea Committee  
By Direction